

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/826,042

Examiner

Thong Q. Nguyen

Applicant(s)

KANEDA, TORU

Art Unit

2872

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 5/2/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-17.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

THONG NGUYEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. The present Office action is made in response to the amendment filed on May 2, 2006. It is noted that in the amendment, applicant has made changes to the specification and the claims. Regarding to the claims, applicant has amended claims 1-2, 5, 8-9 and 12-16 and added a new claim, i.e., claim 17, into the application. A review of the device as recited in the newly-added claim 17 has resulted that the device of the newly-added claim has the same scope as that of the original and now amended claims, and thus all pending claims 1-17 are examined in this Office action.

Specification

2. The lengthy specification which was amended by the amendment of 5/2/06 has not been checked to the extent necessary to determine the presence of all possible minor errors. Applicant's cooperation is requested in correcting any errors of which applicant may become aware in the specification.

Claim Objections

3. The objections to claims 5 and 14 are now withdrawn due to the amendments to the claims which are sufficient to overcome the objections to the claims.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 1-17 are allowed.

5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The microscope as recited in each of claims 1, 14 and 17 is patentable with respect to the prior art, in particular, the EP reference No. 1 008 884 and the U.S.

Patent Nos. 4,673,260; 6,456,430 and 6,891,671 by the limitations related to the structure of the microscope and the illuminating system for illuminating the samples. While the use of an adjusting unit for varying the illumination size and shape on a sample or a field of view is disclosed in the art as can be seen in the mentioned references; however, the cited art does not disclose a microscope having an area light source for outputting a uniform area light which illuminate two irradiation regions corresponding respectively to a right and a left field of views; a right observation system and a left observation system for simultaneously observe the sample wherein the field of views of the observation systems are aligned in a direction perpendicular to the optical axis of the area light; and an adjusting unit provided between the area light source and the sample which unit comprises a notch extends in a direction perpendicular to the optical axis of the area-light source and has a width changed in a predetermined manner along the irradiation regions wherein an amount of light passing through each of the field of views is adjustable by moving the adjusting unit in a direction perpendicular to the optical axis of the area-light source.

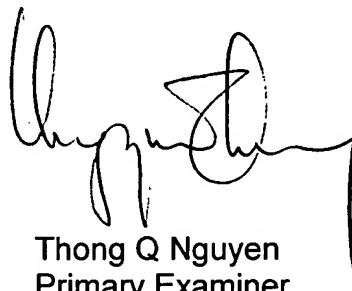
Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thong Q. Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-2316. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Drew A. Dunn can be reached on (571) 272-2312. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Thong Q Nguyen
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2872
